KUMAR): (a) In its recommendations, the Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) has not defined a calamity of rare severity but has stated that a calamity of rare severity would necessarily have to be adjudged on a case-to-case basis taking into account, inter-alia, the intensity and magnitude of the calamity, level of relief assistance needed, the capacity of the State to tackle the problem, the alternatives and flexibility available within the plans to provide succour and relief, etc. There is no provision in the recommendations of TFC that if one-third of the population of a State is affected by natural calamity, the disaster can be termed as "a National calamity of rarest severity". However, the TFC has mentioned that once a calamity is deemed to be of rare severity it ought to be dealt with as a national calamity requiring assistance and support beyond what is envisaged in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) scheme.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since there is no provision for declaring any calamity as a "National calamity of rarest severity", the question of declaring the disaster in Orissa as such does not arise. However, it is being dealt with as a national calamity.

Zero per cent corruption in the Administration

†*180. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per his announcement his Government would work to achieve the target of zero per cent corruption in the administration; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/to be taken by Government to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) In his address to the nation on 16.10.1999 the Prime Minister had declared that principle

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

of zero tolerance will be applied by the Government while dealing with corruption.

(b) Some of the recent initiatives taken by the Government to eradicate corruption are as under:

Statutory status was conferred upon the CVC by the CVC Ordinance(s) of 1998 dt. 25.8.98 & 27.10.98 and of 1999 dt. 8.1.99. The CVC Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7.12.98 and passed by the Lok Sabha on 15.3.99, however, lapsed on the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha on 26.4.99. Steps are being taken to re-introduce Bill.

The Central vigilance Commission has been vested with powers to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration. The CVC has issued various instructons to reduce the scope of corruption on subjects like creating a culture of honesty; greater transparency in administration; electronics clearance system and computerisation of banks; sensitising the public etc. The CVC has also issued Special Chapters on Vigilance Management in Public Sector Banks and Public Sector Undertakings.

An Anti-Corruption Unit in the Prime Minister's office is functioning since 1997. It monitors and pursues complaints of corruption.

The Government has adopted a three pronged approach of Preventive, Surveillance and Deterrent Punitive action to tackle the menace of corruption.

Recognising that an important aspect of Preventive Vigilance is to ensure transparency in public administration, measures of administrative reforms such as introduction of Citizens Charters and setting up of Facilitation Centres have been initiated. The review and simplification of laws, rules and procedures has also been taken up.

The Government set up a Working Group on 'Right to Information and Transparency' in January, 1997. The recommendation made by the Group for legislation of the 'Freedom of Information Bill' is at an advanced stage of consideration.

Lok Pal Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3.8.98 but

lapsed on the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha on 26.4.1999. Steps are being taken to introduce the Bill again.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Utilisation of MPLADS Fund

892. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is fact that the utilisation of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is only 60 per cent and less;

(b) If so, the reasons for less utilisation; and

(c) What steps are being proposed by Government to the fullest utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) During the period from 1993-94 to 1999-2000 (as on 30.11.1999), the Government of India released Rs. 4232.8 crores under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), against which Rupees 2734.8 crores have been reported to have been utilised for various works under the Scheme. Thus at all India level the percentage of utilisation over the release is 64.6 per cent. There are however some states where percentage utilisation is less than 60 per cent. A table setting out state-wise details is annexed in STATEMENT (*See* below). Some of the reasons for less utilisation are the civil nature of works proposed by the MPs, transfer of land for the work site taking time, limited working season in many of the States, the operation of Model Code of Conduct for elections.

(c) All the Members of Parliament have been requested to give